

TEMPLE BETH-EL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER
The Marjorie and Mark Gershwind Campus of Living Judaism
5 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023



GROWING TOGETHER

Vicki Perler, Director
May 6, 2022

Dear Families,

Our Yom HaAtzmaut celebration yesterday was a beautiful event for our children and families. It was definitely “a happening” and the strong and vibrant nature of our ECEC community was evident throughout the school grounds. Thank you all for your most enthusiastic participation and kind comments. Even during the pandemic, and with the continuing rise of Covid cases, we are ever so grateful that we can join together as a strong and vibrant community and foster relationships with each other. The pandemic has called upon us as teachers and parents to think “out of the box” and create new types of programs. And, of course we are blessed to have two outdoor play areas as well as so many other interesting outdoor play spaces at our school to accomplish these goals. We will be reevaluating all our programs soon, and yesterday’s celebration model will be enthusiastically planned again for next year.

Many beautiful connections and relationships have been woven together this year to form a vibrant community tapestry. Although this school year is winding down, we can be thankful for the beautiful community we have created this year and look forward to starting once more next year. We are also celebrating two other beautiful events this week – Teacher Appreciation Week and Mother’s Day. Each one of our outstanding teachers are making a difference – one child at a time. I know that you join me in appreciating all our teachers in the most

beautiful ways. It is challenging to find great teachers these days, and I feel incredibly blessed to have an extraordinary teaching team who are certified educators as well as loving and nurturing individuals. Thank you, teachers, for all you do every day!

As you continue to navigate the constant ebb and flow of motherhood, I want to take this opportunity to wish each one of you a beautiful and memorable Mother's Day. This poem is for all the wonderful mothers we know who do so much for their children and families and think that no one ever sees.

When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my
First painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted
To paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed
Stray cats, and I learned that it was good to be kind
To animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my
Favorite cake for me and I learned that the little
Things can be
The special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a
Prayer, and I knew there is a God I could always
Talk to and I learned to trust in God.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make a
Meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I
Learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of
Your time and money to help people who had nothing
And I learned that those who have something should
Give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you take
Care of our house and everyone in it and I learned
We have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking how you
Handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't
Feel good and I learned that I would have to be
Responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come
From your eyes and I learned that sometimes things
Hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you
Cared and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of
Life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and

Productive person when I grow up.
When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked at you
And wanted to say, "Thanks for all the things I saw
When you thought I wasn't looking."

May your children be a constant source of pride for you, and may your lives continue to be enriched by their unique and special qualities.

Shabbat Shalom
Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, May 8	Mother's Day
Tuesday, May 10	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Tuesday, May 17	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Thursday, May 19	Lag B'Omer
Tuesday, May 24	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day – School Closed
Tuesday, May 31	Rosh Chodesh Sivan
Tuesday, May 31	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Thursday, June 2	Truck Day – Tentative
Thursday, June 2	Teacher Recognition Day – School Closes at 12:30
Sunday, June 5	Shavuot
Wednesday, June 8	Last Day of School – School Closes at 12:00
Thursday, June 9	Pre-K Graduation – 9:45 AM
Mon-Fri June 13-24	Pre-Summer Enrichment
Wednesday, July 6	Summer Program Begins
Friday, August 19	Summer Program Ends
Thursday, September 8	First Day of School for 2022-2023

CONNECTIONS

Pre-Summer Enrichment Program – We are offering an extension to the school year from **Monday, June 13 to Friday, June 24**. Classes will be filled on a first-come-first served basis.

Registration for the Summer Program – **Our Summer Program is a wonderful way to provide consistency and a seamless flow of the year.** We are offering programs for children who are two, three, and four years old. We are excited to offer the opportunity for our students to continue their experiences at Temple Beth-El during the summer. Stress-free transitions are important for young children. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Registration for 2022-2023 - Don't get closed out of a class for the 2022-2023 school year. If you have any questions about our program for your child for next year, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I'm always happy and proud to provide a tour and talk about our school.

Health and Safety Precautions – Wash your hands!! Hand washing, when done correctly, is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Good hand washing technique is easy to learn and can significantly reduce the spread of infectious diseases among both children and adults. The health and safety procedures in the ECEC are very specific as we strive to reduce the spread of infection in our school. Your cooperation is essential and very much appreciated.

Dressing for the Outdoors – Please be attentive to the weather every day to ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for outdoor play. Our goal in all weather is to keep the children warm, dry and comfortable. If they are not dressed properly, the class is unable to take advantage of the open air and the many interesting outdoor spaces around the temple building. Boots, raincoats, an extra pair of sneakers, two complete changes of clothing (to be left in school), sweaters, hats, mittens, a warm jacket, snow pants and snow boots are necessary. As the weather becomes colder, we will be outdoors when the temperature is above 30 degrees. Please label all children's clothing! Thank you.

Nut-Free School – Reminder - We are a Nut-Free and Sesame-Free School. Please do not send food with nuts or sesame seeds in any form. And please do not give any of these foods to your child on school grounds. We have many children with serious food allergies this year. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Hot Lunch Program - The foods children eat and lifestyle habits they learn have a lasting effect on their health. Due to the overwhelming interest of our families to provide nutritious meals for lunch, we offer meat and dairy lunches for all students. As you know, one of the values of our school is to maintain the highest quality of care whenever possible. This value should also be reflected in the foods we eat.

Lunch Menu:

Monday – Plain pasta, sauce, shredded mozzarella and vegetable

Tuesday – Baked chicken fingers and corn

Wednesday Pizza and Israeli salad

Thursday- Sliders/hamburgers, sweet potato fries and cucumber salad

Friday – Pancakes and applesauce

Our lunch is provided in individual packages for each child. We also have whole wheat bread and soy butter available to children who have not yet acquired the taste for these new foods. We hope that over time, children will discover and enjoy a variety of foods.

Shabbat Sing – Every Friday, I celebrate Shabbat with the toddlers, three-year-olds and Pre-K students. We join together on Friday mornings to experience a beautiful sing-along with me. It is the highlight of my week - every week. I feel very blessed to be able to teach your children beautiful Shabbat melodies. We sing, dance, and work together as a school community to create a joyous Shabbat celebration.

Important ECEC Telephone Information – If you have an important message and cannot reach me or Nancy on the telephone during the day, please ask someone in the main office to find us and relay the message. We hope this system will help you if you are unable to talk to us in person.

Contact Information - Please call, email or see me if you have anything you would like to discuss. My email address is yperler@tbegreatneck.org. This is usually the best way to reach me.

Links to Remember – I invite you to visit the websites connected to the links below. The links relate to information about early childhood education, Jewish life and learning, and helpful hints for parents.

<http://www.jnf.org/> (Plant a tree in Israel for Yom Ha'Atzmaut)

<https://tinyurl.com/yb9uuvtk> (Ideas for Children's Independent Play Experiences Outdoors)

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/childrens-books-empathy-kindness_1_5d52e7b1e4b0c63bcbee2699

<https://www.ujafedny.org> (Support Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine)

<https://pjlibrary.org/getmedia/c63e85f1-58d9-44fd-ae8a-696825e88d25/Jewish-values-ECE.pdf>

https://www.peacequarters.com/harvard-psychologists-say-parents-raise-good-kids-5-things/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=Facebook&utm_campaign=hiylfb

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/explore-great-outdoors>

<https://www.invajy.com/20-happiness-quotes-for-making-you-smile/>

https://d2gesac5hma2c2.cloudfront.net/uploads/attachment/file/1690/Winter_Thrive_Guide_2021.pdf
(Ideas for Family Fun During Winter Months)

<https://www.mindful.org/noticing-connecting-with-our-kids-in-the-midst-of-busy-lives/>

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/february-2017/how-to-talk-to-children-about-anti-semitism>

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/playing-music-home>

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/12/29/christakis.play.children.learning/index.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2015/09/01/the-decline-of-play-in-preschoolers-and-the-rise-in-sensory-issues/?noredirect=on>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2015/04/12/report-debunks-earlier-is-better-academic-instruction-for-young-children/?noredirect=on>

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/june-2021/what-is-rosh-chodesh>

<https://www.mommyshorts.com/2015/03/5-ways-kids-learn-at-a-reggio-emilia-preschool.html>

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/223-creating-routines-for-love-and-learning>

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/may2019/outdoor-play-is-essential>

<https://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2010/outdoor-play>

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/mar2018/promoting-social-and-emotional-health>

www.tbe-ecec.org

<http://www.naeyc.org/>

<http://families.naeyc.org/>

<http://www.reggioalliance.org/>

<http://www.brainy-child.com/article/reggioemilia.shtml>

<http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/>